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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

Wednesday - June 11, 1941

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

SUBJECT: "MORE FOOD FOR DEFENSE." Information from Farm Security Officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Uncle Sam says "more food for defense," and American farmers all over the country are working to produce it. They are increasing their food supplies because they realize they must not only feed themselves but other people of the world who need food for defense and food for life. This is a part of their contribution to the nation's all-out defense efforts. They are producing more meat, poultry, and dairy products than they ever did before, and many are growing bigger better gardens with particular emphasis on tomatoes.

Of course, this means more work for everybody, but most folks recognize the need and are glad to do their part. Farm Security borrowers of the United States Department of Agriculture report they are swinging into line in a big way. Their county offices are like beehives buzzing with activity as people come in and ask "What can we do?" The answer is "You can do a lot. Milk, meat, eggs, and vegetables are as important to defense as tanks, guns, and planes because they mean human defense - physical fitness through strong bodies and alert minds.

FSA families have always followed a live-at-home plan and grown most of their food and feed on the farm. They have done this for two reasons - to improve their diet and cut down expenses. They know they can't afford to buy everything they need but they can afford to produce it. In fact they can't afford not to. They say every time they buy something they could raise at home, they are failing just that much to "live-at-home." So they keep cows to furnish a year-around supply of milk, cream, and butter; chickens to provide meat and eggs all year in-

stead of just a few months in the spring; and livestock for other kinds of meat such as pork, beef, and lamb.

Some 80,000 of these families live in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama, and they are cooperating under a special plan to produce more food this year. According to this plan, each is asked to increase their poultry flock by fifty more chickens and also to get one more brood sow, or two more milk cows, or fifty more chickens in addition to the first fifty.

Let me repeat that. It's a little complicated, but it's such a good idea and so practical for folks in any part of the country, that I want all of you to understand it. The idea is for these live-at-home people to add fifty chickens to their present poultry flock -- if they can get them before July because later summer chicks are not very thrifty. Besides that, every family is asked to do one of three other things - get another brood sow, or get two more milk cows, or get fifty more chickens besides the extra fifty already requested. In other words, there's some choice in the matter.

The additional chickens will produce more meat and eggs to use at home and sell, the additional sow will mean hogs for meat to use at home or sell, and the additional cows will produce milk and dairy products to keep or sell. Of course, the families will market all they cannot use -- that is one of the points of the plan. They will help feed the nation, and people of the beleaguered democracies, while they are feeding themselves. This will mean extra income for them - money to pay for clothing, medical and dental attention, school supplies, and other necessities. It may be possible for each of these families to add from \$60 to \$90 to their yearly earnings, and at the same time, improve their standard of living.

In cases where people need additional feed or equipment - like fences, cowsheds, or hen houses, to take care of their increased poultry or livestock, they may get supplemental loans from the government to provide them. They may also

borrow money to buy the cows, sow, or chickens they need. In other words, nothing must stand in their way to carry out this plan.

Wherever possible, families are using county purchasing and marketing associations to buy livestock and materials. Their county supervisors are always glad to advise them on where and what to buy and how to place their orders. They also stand ready to help them secure federal loans when necessary, and give them suggestions on the care and feeding of livestock and poultry. Or any family may talk to their county agent or home demonstration agent, or write to their state college or the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, D.C. for information.

In some parts of the Southeast, families are getting together with their supervisors and talking over how to make homemade lamp brooders, and care for chickens, hogs, and cows, to get best results. At one meeting, some farmers bought along their hammers and saws and actually constructed some of these 50-chick capacity brooders - they built nineteen in a single afternoon. Young people are interested in the program too, and are carrying out little enterprises of their own. Vocational teachers, NYA instructors, and others are teaching them how to build poultry houses, self-feeders, and the right kind of fences for chicken, hog, and cow ranges.

On many farms, particular attention is being paid to increasing milk production. The quick way to get more milk, dairy specialists say, is to feed the cows some grain along with the pasture. As the pasture gets older, and the growth slows up in hot weather, the grass is lower in food value and the cows naturally need more grain than when the pasture is young and growing fast.

Just as farm families in the Southeast are helping feed themselves and others, so families in other parts of the country are stepping up food production. In the region of Amarillo, Texas, for example, a lot of folks are increasing poultry flocks, planning year-around gardens, arranging to can store, put in freezer lockers and sell surplus vegetables and fruits, and raise more livestock than before.

The good thing about this whole idea is that other farm families in other localities can do the same thing and get the same benefits while helping in Uncle Sam's food-for-defense program.

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